MARVEL COMICS
AVENGERS
SEPT '96 402
EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES
AVENGERS
HEROES REBORN
UPDATE INSIDE!
ONSLAUGHT
IMPACT 2
DON'T MISS THIS
END OF AN ERA
EPIC!
DIRECT EDITION
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AN UNSCHEDULED STOP ON THE NUMBER THREE LINE.
THE SUBWAY TRAIN HAS BEEN TRAPPED UNDER THE STREETS OF MANHATTAN FOR THREE HOURS... AND COUNTING.
CAUGHT IN A SUDDEN, STYGIAN DARKNESS... MYSTIFIED, TERRIFIED AT THE LACK OF EVEN THE BAREST EMERGENCY LIGHT...
...ITS PASSENGERS ERUPTED INTO PANIC...
...TWO HOURS AGO.
BACK WHEN THERE WAS AIR.
NOW THEY WAIT... SEALED INSIDE A STEEL COFFIN... PARALYZED AT THE NOTION OF LEAVING, SWIMMING THROUGH THE BLACKNESS.
AFRAID OF THE UNKNOWN...

...AND PRAYING FOR HOPE.
EVERYBODY GOT ENOUGH LIGHT? GOOD.
I SEE YET ANOTHER STALLED TRAIN.
WHAT DO WE DO, CAP? WRENCH THE DOORS OPEN? LEAD THE PASSENGERS OUT?
NO. THE MOMENT WE TRY, THESE POOR SOULS WILL STAMPEDE. THEY'LL TRAMPLE EACH OTHER IN THE PITCH DARKNESS.
WHAT ARE WE, A HALF-MILE FROM THE 34TH STREET STATION? I'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA...

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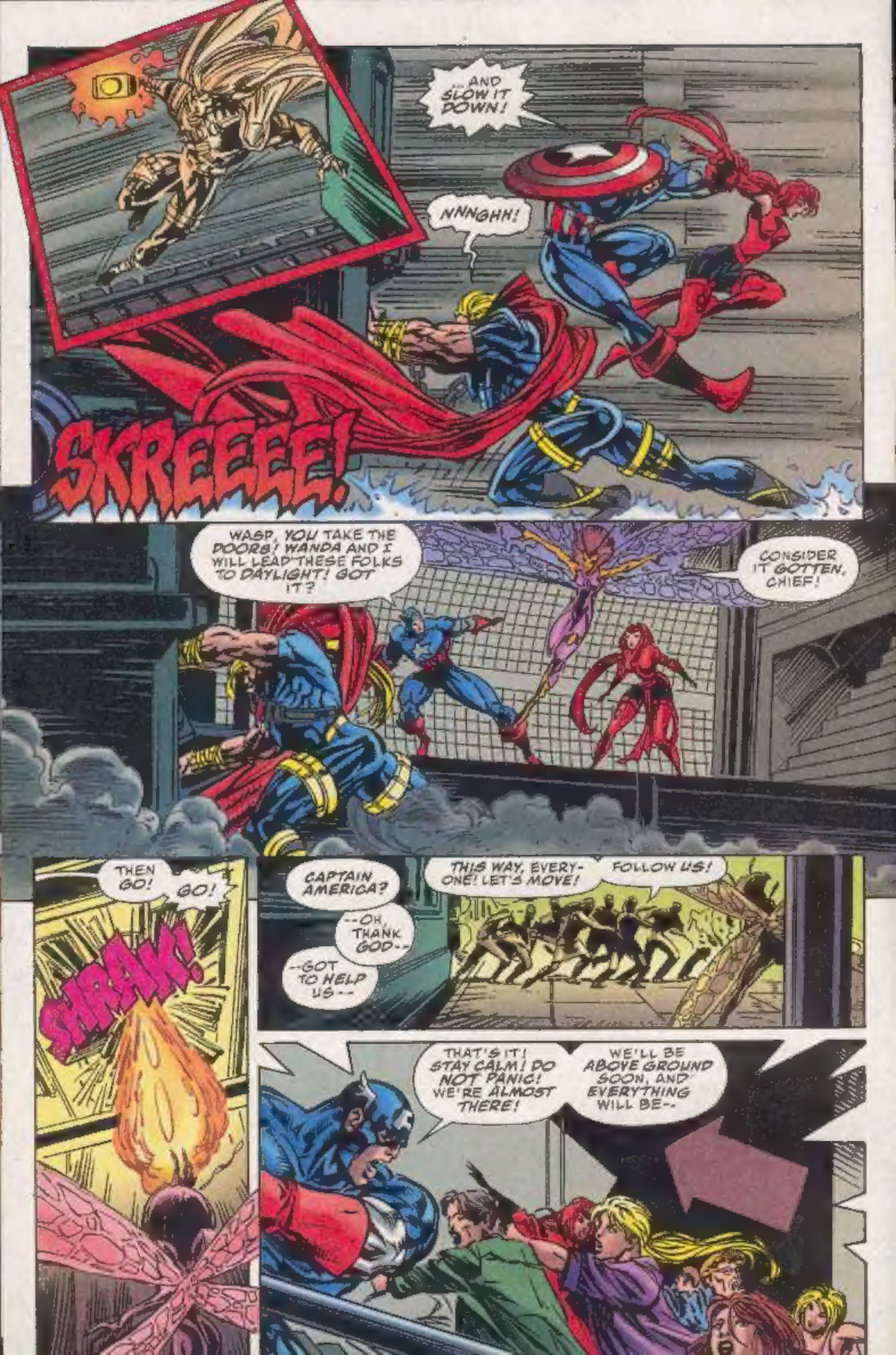

...AND SLOW IT DOWN!
NNNGHH!
SKREEEE!
WASP, YOU TAKE THE DOORS! WANDA AND I WILL LEAD THESE FOLKS TO DAYLIGHT! GOT IT?
CONSIDER IT GOTTEN, CHIEF!
THEN GO! GO!
SHRAK!
CAPTAIN AMERICA?
--OH, THANK GOD--
--GOT TO HELP US--
THIS WAY, EVERYONE! LET'S MOVE!
FOLLOW US!
THAT'S IT! STAY CALM! DO NOT PANIC! WE'RE ALMOST THERE!
WE'LL BE ABOVE GROUND SOON, AND EVERYTHING WILL BE--

STAN LEE presents THE AVENGERS in
END OF THE LINE
--ALL RIGHT--?
JLA
GOOD LORD... IT'S BEDLAM UP HERE!
AND WE'RE SUPPOSED TO HOLD THIS CITY TOGETHER?
OUR JOB HAS JUST BEGUN...
...THANKS TO ONSLAUGHT.
THOR SPITS THE NAME.
MARK WAID story
MIKE DEODATO breakdowns
TOM PALMER finishes
JOHN KALISZ colors
BILL OAKLEY letters
MARK GRUENWALD editor
BOB HARRAS editor in chief

THIS MORNING, ONSLAUGHT--THE MOST POWERFUL MUTANT FORCE EARTH HAS EVER SEEN--MADE HIS FIRST STRIKE ON NEW YORK--
--BROADCASTING AN ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE THAT STOLE EVERY ERG OF POWER IN THE NOW-PARALYZED CITY-- *
* X-MEN #65.
STRAK!
--TERRORIZING EIGHT MILLION SOULS WHO NOW LOOK HUNGRILY FOR SALVATION--
--FROM THE HEROES WHO HAVE DEFENDED THEM TIME AND AGAIN.
THEIR AVENGERS, HOWEVER, ARE NOWHERE NEAR THEIR PEAK OF POWER.
VISION, CRYSTAL AND HAWKEYE HAVE SPLIT OFF WITH THE HULK--*
* HULK #445.

--AND GIANT-MAN AND QUICKSILVER ARE STILL WITH IRON MAN. THEY'RE DEVELOPING PSI-SHIELDING THAT WILL PROTECT US FROM ONSLAUGHT.
IF WE DON'T RENDEZVOUS WITH THEM, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO HELP THESE POOR PEOPLE AT ALL!
HAS ANYONE SEEN THE WIDOW? SHE SAID SHE'D MEET WITH US AROUND HERE--
LET GO OF ME!
GET BACK!
--CAN'T FIND MY WIFE--
--WHAT'S HAPPENING?
--GOT TO HELP US--
--END OF THE WORLD--
HEELLLPP UUUUS!
WIDOW, I'M HERE! YOU HAVE TO HOLD ON--
--TRAPPED IN THE--
--GOING TO KILL US ALL--
--IN THE NAME OF GOD, SAVE US!
--AND THAT GOES DOUBLE FOR THE REST OF YOU!
FEAR WON'T HELP ANYBODY! STAY CALM!

THAT SEEMED TO EASE THEIR MINDS.
UNTIL I STOPPED TALKING. WIDOW, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
JUST RATTLED. THEY LOOK TO US LIKE WE'RE GODS.
NO OFFENSE, THOR.
THEY NEED US LIKE THEY NEVER HAVE BEFORE... AND WE'RE NOT EVEN CERTAIN WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST. RIGHT, CAP?
CAP?
SO MUCH CHAOS AND DESTRUCTION. I'VE... I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT...
GEE, THANKS, CAP. NOT EXACTLY WHAT WE NEEDED TO HEAR...
THANKS FOR THE SAVE. I'LL BE FINE. I WANT TO KEEP PATROLLING THE CITY.
THE REST OF YOU HAVE TO MAKE THE RENDEZVOUS... SO GO.
AND GODSPEED.
DAVID

AND YOU? YOU SEEM EXTRA WORRIED.
I AM... ABOUT CAP. WE'RE ALL OVERWHELMED... BUT THIS SEEMS TO BE TAKING ITS GREATEST TOLL ON HIM. HAVE YOU NOTICED HOW FRAYED HE IS?
I HATE TO SAY IT--AFTER ALL, HE'S LED US AGAINST THE BIGGEST AND THE BADDEST--
--BUT MAYBE THIS ONCE--AGAINST SOMEONE WHO COULD MAKE GALACTUS PAUSE --CAP'S IN OVER HIS HEAD.
THE PEOPLE OF NEW YORK ARE AT THEIR LOWEST EBB. I DON'T KNOW... MAYBE THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH HOPE CAP CAN INSPIRE IN THEM BEFORE THEIR HOPELESSNESS DROWNS EVEN HIM. AND THEN...
...WHERE ARE WE?
THERE YOU ARE--AND RIGHT ON TIME!
TELL ME YOU HAVE SOME GOOD NEWS. WE COULD USE IT.
WE MIGHT HAVE CRACKED THE DEFENSE PROBLEM BEST WE CAN OFFER.
BEFORE, WE WEREN'T EVEN REMOTELY EQUIPPED TO WITHSTAND ONSLAUGHT'S TELEKINETIC PSISTORMS. CONSEQUENTLY, HE'S BEEN ABLE TO DRIVE US BACK DURING EVERY ATTACK.*
USING CHARLES XAVIER'S DESIGNS, GIANT-MAN AND I WERE ABLE TO COBBLE UP SOME PSIONIC ARMOR. UNFORTUNATELY, TECHNOLOGICALLY SPEAKING, IT'S SPIT-AND-BAILING WIRE STUFF...
...WITH NO GUARANTEE THAT IT'LL WORK.
* UNCANNY X-MEN #336.

FZAAAK!
HOLY -
WHAT HIT THOR? IT CAME OUT OF NOWHERE -
NOT EXACTLY
O SENGAGE CLOAK, POST
BOOM
DONE. HOLOCAUST
TAK
YOUR LAST CHANCE S SPENT. AVENGERS ONSLAUGHT HAS SENT US TO LIBERATE YOUR PSI-SHIELD DEVICES

BOOM!!
WELL IRON MAN FONSLAUGHT WANTS THEM
CLEARLY YOU ARE ON TO SOMETHING
DO NOT TOY WITH US SPEEDSTER
CLOAK ENGAGED
HE'S DOWN! THOR IS DOWN!
--BUSTED WINDOWS IN THE BRONX.
WHERE D THE BIG ONE GO? I CAN'T SEE HIM!
THE AVENGERS'LL FIND HIM THEY'LL SAVE US!
WON'T THEY ?

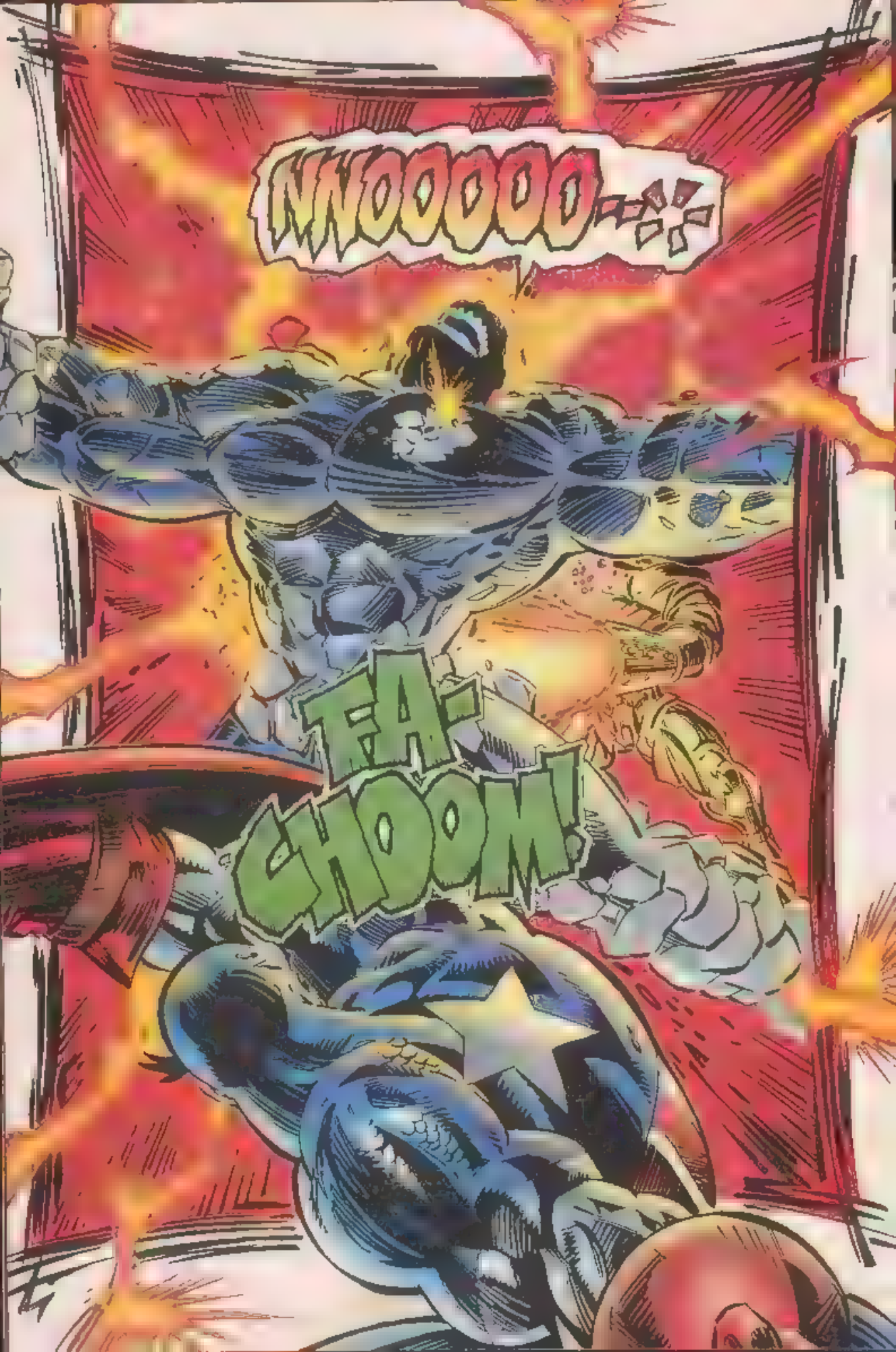
THE BATTLE IS WON POST WE CLAIM OUR
..PRIZE..?
NOT IF MY HEX SPHERE CLAIMS IT FIRST
I SEE SO LONG AS YOU RE IN THE MOOD TO PLAY CATCH THEN -
HWHUFF!
--HERE!
WHAM!

HOLOCAUST WATCH THE WASP!
CAP - HEADS UP!
CAP?
OH NO
LOOK AT HIM THIS IS JUST WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF
THE TIDE OF THE CROWD HAS FINALLY GOTTEN TO HIM!
HE'S BEEN SUCKED INTO THAT VORTEX OF DESPAIR THAT'S PULLING US ALL UNDER. MY GOD WITHOUT HIS FAITH
WHAT HOPE DO THE REST OF US HAVE?"

TWAM!
KSSSH!
CAP? SNAP OUT OF IT! WE NEED YOU! THERE'S ALWAYS A WAY, RIGHT?
TELL ME THERE'S SOME WAY TO MAKE THIS WORK! TELL ME WE
WE CAN'T BEAT THEM
WHAT?!

GHUUH!
KA-RACK!
SO SO THAT'S IT? WE JUST ROLL OVER? THIS IS HOW IT ENDS?
WHAT?
I SAID, THIS IS HOW IT ENDS!
CAP? CAP?
DON'T INTERRUPT ME
I'M THINKING

WHAT? MY CLOAK--?
TAKKZZTT
SP-TANG!
WHO DARES ?
GOT YOUR ATTENTION, HOLOCAUST? GOOD GO ON
TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT
NO
NO


NNOOOOO--!!
KA-CHOOM!

WOW
I I DON'T UNDERSTAND! I THOUGHT YOU SAID WE COULDN'T BEAT THEM!
WHAT WHAT HAVE I DONE ?
WE DIDN'T HAVE THE MANPOWER WE HAD TO TRICK THEM INTO BEATING THEMSELVES
WHAT? DID YOU THINK I MEANT?
NOTHING, SIR
THEN QUICKLY--WHILE HOLOCAUST IS DISTRACTED--
--HIT HIM HARD!
BWAAM

THEY DON'T HAVE TO BE TOLD TWICE.
ALMOST AS ONE, THE AVENGERS STRIKE.
POOLING THEIR POWERS AND THEIR COURAGE, THEY BRING ALL THEIR FORCE TO BEAR...
...UNTIL HOLOCAUST FALLS...
...BEFORE EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES.

AND THE CROWD
GOES
WILD!

WANDA, YOU HAVE THE PSI-ARMOR?
RIGHT HERE.
THEN EVERYONE SUIT UP SO WE CAN--
--CAN WHAT, IRON MAN? ATTACK?
ONSLAUGHT--?
ALLOW ME TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR VICTORY. ENJOY IT--
--FOR THE HOLLOW TRIUMPH IT IS.
PITIFUL FOOLS. YOU THINK YOU HAVE FANNED A SPARK OF HOPE IN THE RABBLE OF HUMANITY?
CONSIDER IT EXTINGUISHED.
NY
NY

THIS, HEROES, IS YOUR FINAL BATTLE--
KSSH
KOOM!
YEAH? THEN WE'VE GOT ONE LAST THING TO SAY TO YOU!
AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!
TO BE CONTINUED IN X-MEN #56--
--AND ONSLAUGHT: MARVEL UNIVERSE!